



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 17, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: Scattered thundershowers brought relief to some parts of the state, while others remain dry. A soaking rain is needed to increase soil moisture levels. The warm temperatures have increased growth in many crops. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included mowing along field barriers, baling straw, making hay, spraying pesticides, spreading manure, harvesting small grains, and rotating pastures.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 17, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
9	36	49	6

Crops: Ninety-three percent of barley is now harvested, slightly ahead of the historic average. Corn height is now at 60 inches, 7 inches ahead of the 5-year average but 8 inches behind last year's average. Corn is thirty-five percent silked, ahead of the historic average. Corn crop conditions continue to improve as 70 percent is rated as either good or excellent. Soybean blooming is back on pace with twenty-nine percent now bloomed, on pace with last year's average. Soybean crop condition looks good as seventy-one percent is rated as either good or excellent. This year's wheat crop is 98 percent ripe and 59 percent harvested. Wheat crop condition remains steady from last week with 77 percent rated as good or excellent. Oats are heading at ninety-seven percent and fifty-seven percent are yellow. Thirteen percent of the crop is now ripe, slightly behind last year's average. Oat conditions remain relatively steady from last week as 61 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Seventy-seven percent of the 2nd cutting of alfalfa is now complete, well above last year's average. Ten percent of the 3rd cutting is also complete. Sixty-five percent of the alfalfa stand is rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-six percent of the 1st cutting of timothy clover is complete as well as 19 percent of the 2nd cutting. These

are both ahead of last year's average. The quality of hay made this week was 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. This is a slight increase from last week.

The peach and apple crops continue to look good. Seventy-one percent of peaches and eighty-six percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 22 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 17 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Pastures continue to look poor from hot temperatures and little rainfall. Scattered showers helped slightly in some spots but a soaking rain is needed.

U.S. As of July 10, 2005: Highlights: Two tropical systems made landfall on the Gulf Coast. Tropical Storm Cindy dropped heavy rainfall from the central Gulf Coast through the Appalachian Mountains to the Northeast. The rainfall was mostly beneficial to crops in these areas, with little flooding, but high winds damaged some crops. Hurricane Dennis, which made landfall Sunday, will bring some much-needed rainfall to the Mississippi Delta area. Corn: Silking advanced to 25 percent complete, 5 percentage points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Three percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 2 points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Soybeans: Blooming was 42 percent complete, compared with 36 percent last year and 30 percent for the normal. Pods were setting on 6 percent of the acreage, the same as last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 72 percent of their acreage, compared with 69 percent last year and 71 percent for the 5-year average. Small Grains: Barley heading advanced to 74 percent complete, compared with 69 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Ninety-two percent of the oat crop was headed, 4 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 17, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 17, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	94	59	78	8	0.67	3	7.97	-4.72	37	1,325	209	2,219
Franklin	91	55	76	6	1.19	5	12.00	-2.73	60	1,183	112	2,125
Meadville	91	56	77	9	1.90	2	10.60	-3.48	42	1,258	286	2,196
Mercer	91	56	76	7	1.23	5	12.87	-1.30	57	1,209	144	2,129
Springboro	92	53	76	5	0.47	3	10.43	-2.13	45	1,134	3	2,012
Warren	94	54	76	8	0.45	2	10.08	-4.65	44	1,158	119	2,080
North Central												
Bradford Region	87	48	72	7	1.27	1	13.86	-1.10	50	891	152	1,740
Emporium	91	53	75	9	0.24	1	9.16	-5.96	46	1,144	308	2,067
Kane	88	45	71	6	0.07	1	11.05	-3.97	45	841	110	1,681
Laporte	87	58	74	5	0.32	3	14.03	-0.06	51	1,029	-39	1,908
Lock Haven	92	56	77	7	0.23	2	7.79	-5.87	40	1,328	181	2,301
Port Allegany	88	48	73	7	0.11	1	10.06	-4.42	42	987	148	1,840
Renovo	94	56	77	7	0.02	1	5.44	-8.22	39	1,309	162	2,281
Ridgway	89	49	73	7	0.63	1	10.80	-4.32	45	987	151	1,884
Stevenson Dam	91	55	75	10	0.16	2	8.77	-6.35	48	1,212	376	2,166
Towanda	91	56	76	7	0.09	2	9.81	-1.86	39	1,212	131	2,148
Wellsboro	90	51	73	7	2.08	2	14.83	3.06	42	953	175	1,805
Williamsport	92	57	78	7	1.59	2	12.84	-0.85	33	1,454	176	2,438
Northeast												
Hawley	87	54	74	6	0.07	2	12.61	-0.47	43	1,066	168	1,966
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	91	57	79	7	0.23	2	8.95	-3.81	39	1,448	236	2,432
Susquehanna	89	57	75	8	0.90	3	11.33	-2.65	48	1,150	291	2,067
West Central												
Butler	92	53	76	6	0.70	3	12.48	-1.46	42	1,253	137	2,237
New Castle	93	56	77	7	0.55	3	13.81	0.94	43	1,352	227	2,332
Slippery Rock	92	54	76	8	2.92	2	13.66	0.01	43	1,254	243	2,248
Central												
Altoona/Blair	87	56	74	3	1.17	2	7.04	-5.79	24	1,230	13	2,193
DuBois	88	54	75	6	0.63	2	10.78	-3.43	55	1,139	99	2,084
Lewistown	91	59	78	6	1.22	2	10.52	-3.19	36	1,425	85	2,430
Middletown	91	66	79	4	1.85	3	11.83	-1.56	33	1,702	178	2,747
Prince Gallitzi	89	50	73	6	0.40	3	8.96	-7.14	47	1,061	109	1,977
Selinsgrove	93	59	77	6	1.55	4	12.43	-1.32	35	1,355	112	2,340
State College	92	61	78	7	1.07	2	7.44	-5.22	41	1,358	159	2,352
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	90	60	78	5	0.57	4	14.45	0.77	40	1,476	92	2,495
Lehighnton	88	58	77	4	1.55	2	14.67	0.92	39	1,326	1	2,324
Matamoras	89	55	74	3	0.09	3	12.27	-2.24	44	1,143	-51	2,082
Tobyhanna	89	59	76	11	1.09	5	15.30	0.14	56	1,287	513	2,273
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	93	63	79	9	0.12	4	8.24	-5.15	45	1,564	340	2,593
Derry	91	61	76	7	0.17	1	12.61	-1.03	40	1,283	148	2,269
Myersdale	86	53	72	3	1.82	3	12.83	-2.22	40	931	-175	1,824
Mount Pleasant	89	55	75	7	0.92	4	12.90	-2.53	50	1,247	249	2,236
Pittsburgh Intl	91	59	78	6	0.67	5	13.25	0.69	46	1,463	175	2,475
Rector	88	58	75	7	1.31	5	12.63	-2.80	57	1,233	235	2,219
Waynesburg	89	58	76	5	0.55	3	11.59	-2.00	39	1,283	99	2,281
South Central												
Biglerville	93	60	77	3	1.29	3	14.02	1.69	39	1,463	-38	2,486
Everett	82	53	69	-3	1.06	2	7.37	-4.90	38	956	-231	1,875
Hanover	91	59	77	2	4.38	3	15.98	3.65	36	1,445	-56	2,459
Shippensburg	92	60	77	3	2.98	3	15.27	2.77	40	1,501	9	2,512
South Mountain	87	57	74	3	1.20	3	12.42	-0.41	34	1,289	79	2,312
York	92	58	77	3	0.89	3	9.43	-4.24	27	1,482	-15	2,495
Southeast												
Green Lane	90	61	78	5	0.42	5	13.39	0.05	35	1,446	134	2,472
Hamburg	91	60	78	7	1.78	4	13.66	-2.47	34	1,490	304	2,510
Hopewell	90	61	78	3	1.40	5	15.46	1.52	48	1,458	-118	2,486
Lancaster	91	62	77	4	1.94	3	16.98	3.07	35	1,520	133	2,544
Neshaminy Falls	90	61	77	4	0.24	1	16.46	1.06	31	1,343	-41	2,344
New Holland	93	63	78	5	2.34	3	13.23	-0.68	36	1,543	156	2,571
Philadelphia	92	68	80	5	1.03	2	13.78	0.31	34	1,718	106	2,785
Philadelphia NE	92	68	80	5	0.06	2	14.70	1.23	32	1,676	64	2,732
Reading	92	66	80	6	1.69	3	12.15	-2.72	35	1,614	259	2,644
Valley Forge Na	92	56	77	2	0.36	1	14.49	0.55	24	1,354	-222	2,350
Willow Grove	89	66	79	5	2.40	1	14.96	-0.44	31	1,545	161	2,587

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County received some rainfall this week. Accumulations around the county are varied. Crops are welcoming the moisture and this week's high humidity has helped the corn and soybeans grow. Wheat harvest continues and some are reported as going for feed wheat due to quality. Some rainfall and cloudy, humid days have made it difficult to get the wheat harvested this year. Straw seems to be pretty good but some areas are short due to height of wheat.

ADAMS COUNTY, Tara Baugher (EXT) - The harvest of Sentry and Garnet peaches are beginning to be harvested and Redhaven should begin around July 22. Depending on orchard locations, harvest times vary.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Continued wet weather has caused wheat test weight to fall. Hay making has been near impossible. Corn has responded to the tropical weather and is growing rapidly. Five inches of rain over the weekend has insured that the early corn will have enough moisture to start filling ears. Soybeans are suffering from brown spot on lower leaves due to the humid, wet conditions.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - Hot and humid weather is great for corn, soybean, and forage growth. However, frequent showers have hampered small grain and forage harvesting. The humidity may present a problem of sprouting heads on small grains if harvest becomes delayed.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Conditions vary across the county, but it is still dry.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Continues to be very dry, We need a few days of rainfall. Some areas have had thunderstorms that provided an inch of relief. My gauge had 4 tenths of an inch from a storm. Grain harvesting is well underway.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - There has been some wheat harvesting in the past week. Timely rains came into the area. There are reports of corn tasseling. Hopefully the high temperatures will not hurt pollination.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Weekend rains brought a welcomed relief to farmers in our area. Pastures and hay fields seemed to green up immediately. Water problems are still a big concern. Certain parts of the county are suffering more than others. Hauling water to livestock is becoming a daily chore.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Jim Collom - Oat harvest is moving ahead and corn is starting to tassel out. Rains on Saturday and Sunday were needed.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Clarion, Venango, and Forest counties had crops that were damaged from hail storms on two different days. The northern parts of Clarion and Venango counties and southern parts of Forest county were damaged the most. Fruit and vegetable farmers were hit the worst. There were reports of blueberry crops with 100% loss and many bushes completely lost. The were minor reports of hay and corn damage. Wheat and oat crops in many areas were also damaged.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Blaine May - Thundershowers are helping to relieve dry conditions.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - Showers this week have eased the drought stress on corn and beans. Some areas reporting up to 4.5 inches over the weekend, about 2 inches overall. Third cutting of alfalfa now looks like a good possibility at this time. Quality of hay this past week was good, however it still remained short. Peach season is now in and quality is good. However, early crop is lighter than normal.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Rain this week was good for everything except small grain harvesting. We needed rain so bad, even farmers that had grain to harvest were glad to see rain. The rain was a shot in the arm for pastures because they were almost out.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Wheat harvest is progressing well. Wheat yields have been variable as well as the straw yield. Gray mold has made straw a little off color. Some tassels are now visible on corn and soybeans are flowering. More scattered thunderstorms made harvesting and baling interesting.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - It was a hot, muggy week that was good for corn and hay to grow. Not much field work completed due to daily rains.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Vegetable harvest is underway. Sweet corn, potatoes, snap beans, peaches, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, apricots, squash, peppers, and cucumbers are coming in. The heat and frequent thundershowers are conducive to rapid growth. Growers remain concerned about the diseases brought on by these conditions.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer - What a difference that rain will make. On Friday and Saturday, the amount of rainfall varied from 3 tenths to over 2 inches coupled with nearly one inch late last week. That was enough to green up the pastures and change the appearance of the corn and soybeans. However, it was too late for the oats and the second cutting of hay. The heat and humidity are keeping the insects that normally attack corn and soybeans in check. The main activities for the week were harvesting wheat, baling straw, clipping pastures, and mowing along the field boundaries.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker - We had about 3 inches of rain in the last ten days that made a very big improvement in crop progress. Soybeans have responded to the moisture very well. Corn is still uneven and has been hurt some regardless of the moisture.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Rain is much needed for the soil moisture to allow a good second cutting. The showers have helped, but a soaking rain is much needed.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Robert J Graham - The northeast section of the county did not receive any of the showers that crossed much of county. Corn is ready to tassel, but is under extreme drought stress. On the bright side, wheat yields were well above average.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Another hot week with scattered thunderstorms. Most areas of the county have received some rain but there are still a few isolated spots that are dry. Wheat is yielding well with excellent test weights. A few producers are reporting that later alfalfa cuttings are short. Corn and soybeans are doing well where they have received enough moisture.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 17, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	35	53	25
Corn average height, inches	60	68	53
Barley, harvested	93	97	91
Wheat, ripe	98	98	85
Wheat, harvested	59	69	60
Oats, heading or headed	97	95	93
Oats, turning yellow	57	56	53
Oats, ripe	13	20	26
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	77	62	56
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	10	13	10
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	96	91	87
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	19	13	14
Peaches, harvested	12	25	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 17, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	5	24	53	17
Wheat	1	3	19	62	15
Oats	0	5	34	46	15
Soybeans	0	5	24	58	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	9	26	50	15
Quality of hay made	1	3	24	59	13
Pasture	22	22	37	17	2
Peaches	2	4	23	47	24
Apples	2	3	9	52	34

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